

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10985 01 OF 02 141747Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 AF-10
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /070 W
-----141801Z 074567 /53

O R 141741Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1749
INFO USMISSION USUN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 10985

NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, AORG
SUBJECT: UNESCO: APRIL 18-20 FLORENCE SYMPOSIUM
(INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON THE FREE AND
BALANCED FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN
DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES):
DISCUSSION PAPERS

REF: PARIS 7162

1. DELEGATION HAS REVIEWED SECRETARIAT "WORKING
APRIL 18-20 FLORENCE SYMPOSIUM. THESE HAVE BEEN
POUCHED TO DEPT AND NATCOM. UNESCO SECRETARIAT HAS
INFORMED US DEL PAPERS WERE MAILED TO REACH SYMPOSIUM
PARTICIPANTS HOPEFULLY BEFORE THEIR DEPARTURES FOR
FLORENCE.

2. PAPER TOPICS FOLLOW FORMAT PREVIEWED REFTEL.
NAESSELUND HAS DRAFTED PAPER ENTITLED "COOPERATION
FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATION RESOURCES",
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PAGE 02 PARIS 10985 01 OF 02 141747Z

AND WILL SERVE AS SECRETARIAT RESOURCE PERSON FOR
THAT PANEL. HE PROVIDES BRIEF AND
BALANCED REVIEW AND CRITICISM OF SOME APPROACHES TO
COOPERATION IN MASS MEDIA FIELD, AND DISPASSIONATELY
CITES COMMERCIAL MEDIA DEVELOPMENT FOR CONTRIBUTING
TO EVOLUTION OF SYSTEMS WHICH OFTEN ARE OUT OF PHASE
WITH REAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. PAPER CONCLUDES THAT

POINT OF NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT IS TO MOBILIZE NATIONS' LATENT HUMAN RESOURCES, THEREBY FOSTERING CREATIVE "NATIONAL" PRODUCTION AND REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON IMPORTED PROGRAMMING AND IMPORTED TASTES.

3. PAPER ENTITLED "THE PROBLEMS OF IMBALANCE IN THE FLOW OF INFORMATION" WAS DEVELOPED BY SOMMERLAD AND WILLINGS. SOMMERLAD WILL ATTEND SYMPOSIUM TO BACKSTOP DISCUSSION ON THIS ITEM. IT IS RATHER LENGTHY REVIEW (17 PAGES) OF KINDS OF INFORMATION FLOWS (NEWS AGENCIES, RADIO, ETC.), PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK FOR DESCRIBING AND DISCUSSING "IMBALANCES", AND UNDER "REMEDIES" SECTION CALLS FOR MUCH MORE RESEARCH TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE BASIS FOR FUTURE DECISIONS. CONCLUDING PAGES PROVIDE BRIEF RESUME OF "INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS" IN MASS COMMUNICATIONS FIELD TO DATE, AND INCLUDES FOOTNOTES.

4. THIRD PAPER BY TURPUZ (TURKEY - OF UNESCO COMMUNICATION DIV STAFF, FORMERLY JOURNALIST, AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF TURKEY'S RADIO AND TELEVISION SERVICE AT ANKARA) IS ENTITLED "THE STATUS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF INFORMATION PERSONNEL AND THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR PROFESSION." US DEL FINDS THIS 5-PAGE PAPER UNACCEPTABLE AND UNNECESSARILY INFLAMMATORY.

5. FOR EXAMPLE, TURPUZ REFERS TO AS FACT "THE NEW CONCEPTION" OF INFORMATION BASED ON "NEW PRINCIPLES" SUCH AS QUOTE THE NEED FOR THE INFORMATION MEDIA TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PARIS 10985 01 OF 02 141747Z

PARTICIPATE IN THE LIBERATION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIES; RECOGNITION OF THE EXISTENCE OF IMPERIALISM IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION, WHICH TENDS TO IMPEDE SOCIAL COOPERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE THIRD WORLD; THE ROLE OF THE INFORMATION MEDIA IN DECOLONIZATION; AND THE HARMFUL INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION MEDIA HOSTILE TO THE ASPIRATIONS AND AMBITIONS OF THE NON-COMMITTED COUNTRIES UNQUOTE. TURPUZ ALSO PRESENTS "RESPONSIBILITIES" OF JOURNALISTS IN LIGHT OF THIS "NEW CONCEPTION" WHICH HE SETS OUT IN "THE CODES OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS." HERE, AS WELL AS COVERING TRADITIONALLY ACCEPTABLE PRINCIPLES SUCH AS OBJECTIVE REPORTING AND VERACITY OF INFORMATION, TURPUZ WANDERS INTO "OBLIGATIONS" WHICH "SHOULD BE MORALLY AS WELL AS LEGALLY BINDING." JOURNALISTS SHOULD REFRAIN FROM REPORTING THE SENSATIONAL, HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL CULTURES, "MUST" CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USE OF FORCE AND THE THREAT OF

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10985 02 OF 02 141753Z
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INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /070 W
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O R 141741Z APR 77
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 10985

FORCE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN STATES, SHOULD REFRAIN FROM
ANY COMMERCIAL PUBLICITY IN THEIR ARTICLES,
ETC.

6. PAPER ALSO MAINTAINS THESE PARTISAN VIEWS WITH
RESPECT TO "PROTECTION" OF JOURNALISTS. IT ALLOWS
THAT LEGISLATORS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE "ROLE" OF
INFORMATION PERSONNEL, AND IMPLIES THAT PUBLIC
AUTHORITIES SHOULD NOT INTERFERE TO DETRIMENT OF
FREE COLLECTION, DISSEMINATION, ETC. OF
INFORMATION. HOWEVER, IT ALSO CONCLUDES THAT IT IS
NECESSARY TO "PROTECT INFORMATION PERSONNEL FROM THE
DANGERS OF PRIVATE MONOPOLIES AND THEIR CONCENTRATION"
AND THAT "IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE RIGHTS OF
OWNERSHIP AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE CHARACTER ATTACHING
TO THE PRESS, RADIO, AND TELEVISION SHOULD BE HAR-
MONIZED IN SOME STATUTE GOVERNING THE PRESS AND OTHER
INFORMATION BODIES."

6. IN SUM, TURPEZ' VIEWS PRESENTED IN THIS PAPER MAY
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PAGE 02 PARIS 10985 02 OF 02 141753Z

WELL INVITE CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN
DIALOGUE. COMMUNICATION COMES THROUGH AS TOOL IN
SERVICE OF THE "STATE" AND "THE NEW INTERNATIONAL
SYSTEM," AND REDUCES FUNCTION OF MEDIA PERSONNEL
TO THAT OF IMPERSONAL COG IN COMMUNICATION SYSTEM
WHEEL. WE HAVE DISCUSSED TURPUZ PAPER WITH WILLINGS
AND SOMMERLAD, NEITHER OF WHOM HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
REVIEW IT BEFORE DISTRIBUTION. SOMMERLAD, WHO WILL
ATTEND SYMPOSIUM, THARKED US DEL FOR ITS COMMENTS,
AND INDICATED HE IS ALSO UNHAPPY WITH IT, AND APPRE-
HENSIVE OF PROBLEMS IT COULD CAUSE AT SYMPOSIUM.

7. US DEL REALIZES THERE IS LITTLE TIME LEFT BEFORE
SYMPOSIUM BEGINS, BUT RECOMMENDS WHERE
POSSIBLE THAT AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS BE ALERTED IN
ADVANCE TO THE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE TURPUZ PAPER.
THEY MAY WISH TO CAUCUS BEFOREHAND ON HOW TO HANDLE
THESE UNACCEPTABLE THEMES WHICH COULD SET DANGEROUS
PRECEDENTS FOR FUTURE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.
HARLAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS10985
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770130-0046
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
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Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770457/aaaabxkp.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2806364
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNESCO: APRIL 18-20 FLORENCE SYMPOSIUM (INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON THE FREE AND BALANCED FLOW OF INFORMATION BETWEEN
TAGS: PORG, AORG, UNESCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a3823a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009